

JUNE 2006

THE LATEST NEWS FROM TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

National Trails Day  
June 3, 2006  
[www.americanhiking.org/  
events/ntd](http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd)

National Fishing and Boating  
Week  
June 3-11, 2006  
[www.nationalfishingand  
boatingweek.org](http://www.nationalfishingand<br/>boatingweek.org)

Great Outdoors Week  
June 12-16, 2006  
[www.greatoutdoorsmonth.  
org](http://www.greatoutdoorsmonth.<br/>org)

Great Backyard Campout  
June 24, 2006  
[www.nwfw.org](http://www.nwfw.org)

National Clean Beaches  
Week  
June 29 – July 5, 2006  
[www.cleanbeaches.org](http://www.cleanbeaches.org)

## Greetings from the Executive Director

This past month, I had the opportunity to visit Beatrice, Nebraska, a small town in the southeastern corner of the state, to recognize two hundred students from the eighth grade class of Beatrice Middle School, a Take Pride School. The students spent four days a month collecting and analyzing water samples from the Homestead National Monument as a supplement to their classroom curriculum. After a ceremony at the school featuring local National Park Service employees, school officials and the students, we went to the Monument to see the "hands-on" classroom. They liked using the measuring instruments and were excited and enthusiastic about learning in their outdoor classroom. The partnership has brought senior volunteers and young people together while Taking Pride in their community and a local landmark. A very special thanks to Superintendent Mark Engler and Susan Cook at the Homestead National Monument for their hard work and for a memorable visit!



Beatrice Middle School students with (from left): Assistant Principal David Kraus, Homestead National Monument Volunteer Coordinator Susan Cook, Michelle Cangelosi, NPS Volunteer Coordinator Bettie Blake and National Monument Superintendent Mark Engler.



Volunteers at Branched Oak State Recreation Area near Lincoln, NE lend a hand by planting shrubs.

The next day I went to the Branched Oak State Recreation Area near Lincoln, Nebraska for Take Pride in America - Nebraska Day. This year, the statewide event included seventeen sites for volunteers to participate by lending a hand to their public lands. The organization and diversity of activities for the one hundred volunteers participating at Branched Oak SRA was impressive! There were ten different simultaneous activities that included all age groups and skill levels—planting flowers and mulching, fixing buoys and painting picnic tables. And, to wrap up the afternoon, volunteers were provided a barbecue lunch which included my first taste of a buffalo burger. Take Pride Nebraska Day is an important event that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission plans annually. It gives the public an opportunity to give back to their public recreation areas, and through the efforts of people like Take Pride State Coordinator Suzanne Ridder at the Commission, it provides a focused message to encourage citizens to volunteer together for one day on their public lands across the state.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Cangelosi*

# AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

## National Park Volunteers Honored for Outstanding Service

The National Park Service (NPS) recognized four individuals and groups for their volunteer service at a Take Pride in America event held May 12, 2006 in Washington, DC. NPS Deputy Director Steve Martin honored recipients of the Volunteer Accessibility Achievement Award and the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards, which are given annually.

"The National Park Service is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers and devoted employees who work hard to enhance the visitor experience at our national parks," said Deputy Director Martin. "It is essential that we remain dedicated to strengthening our volunteer program and recognizing the efforts of these amazing individuals and groups."

Winners are:

### **Volunteer Accessibility Achievement Award:**

*Americorps Volunteers*

Honored for their assistance to White Sands National Monument in the construction of the new 900-foot wheelchair-accessible interdune boardwalk.

### **George Hartzog Volunteer Award:**

*Dr. Donald Johnson*

Dr. Johnson is a metallurgist and has been a long-time volunteer with the NPS' Submerged Resources Center in New Mexico. He has worked closely on significant underwater archeological projects since 1998 and his innovative research on determining metal corrosion rates provides a minimum-impact, cost-effective methodology.



*National Park Service staff and volunteers gathered to receive the Volunteer Accessibility Award and George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service.*

### **George Hartzog Volunteer Group Award:**

*Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners*

Recognized for the efforts of their more than 150 volunteers who contributed nearly 2,000 hours to clean out the unsightly, unhealthy rafts of trash and refuse that stagnate at locks and gates at Lowell National Historical Park. The new, non-profit volunteer organization devised their own handmade tools to complete the task. The clean-ups were partly funded by \$2,200 in NPS Park Steward Event grants.

### **George Hartzog Park VIP Program Award:**

*C&O Canal National Historical Park VIP Program*

Volunteers have donated their time in a variety of ways from the park's highly successful bike patrol program to visitor center information assistants, living history interpreters, Civil War re-enactors, trail maintenance volunteers, and receptionists at headquarters. In 2005, volunteers contributed 46,536 hours. They were also recipients of the 2005 Take Pride National Award - Federal Volunteer Program category.

## 2006 Take Pride National Award Nominations Close June 16



The application for the 2006 Take Pride National Awards is posted on our website at [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov). Applications should be completed online and then submitted via fax.

All Take Pride events are eligible to be nominated, so long as it occurred or is in progress between June 5, 2005 and June 4, 2006. The application deadline is June 16, 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be in September 2006 in Washington, DC. There are 12 categories for consideration of awards.

- Individual
- School Program (Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary)
- State Event/ Program
- Federal Land Managers
- Corporation
- Non-Profit Organization
- Faith Based Group
- Federal Volunteer Event/ Program
- Local Government Event/ Program
- Youth/ Youth Group
- Public/ Private Partnership
- Outstanding Take Pride Partner Award



# BUREAU SPOTLIGHTS

## Lake Berryessa Shoreline Benefits From BOR Clean Up

The Lake Berryessa Clean Up in central California on April 25, 2006 was a great success. Ten Bureau of Reclamation staff and five volunteers helped with the effort. Together, participants collected over 60 bags of trash filled with cans, bottles, flip flops and glass. Debris such as a ladder, a paddle boat, buoys, a number of stranded boat docks and several large pieces of foam were also collected.

*Volunteers gather with the garbage they collected at a clean up with the Bureau of Reclamation.*



## Hundreds of Volunteers Clean 23 Miles of Hurricane Debris

On May 6, 2006 over 260 volunteers participated in the 'Reach for the Beach' clean up at the Gulf Islands National Seashore (NPS) in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The volunteers cleaned over twenty-three miles of seashore and bayous and collected Hurricane Katrina debris which littered the public areas. Tires, PVC pipes, filing cabinets, sheet metal roofing, mailboxes and ceiling fans were just some of the items that filled a 20-yard dumpster and numerous garbage bags.

Many groups joined together, including local Boy and Girl Scout troops, the Sierra Club, 4-H Alumni, U.S. Air Force, as well as Wal-Mart and Chevron-Pascagoula Refinery, which provided garbage bags for the clean up.

## Youth Groups Help Bring Relief in 2006 Colorado River Sweep

On May 6, 2006, volunteers from Boy Scout troops and church groups worked to help clean over four miles of the lower Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona for the 2006 Colorado River Sweep. More than 350 participants registered for the half-day event, which began early in the morning to avoid the hot weather. Volunteers cleaned debris from the riverbanks, as well as the levees, and sorted recyclable materials into containers. Event partners

included Arizona State Parks, Boy Scouts of America-Ocotillo District, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Quechan Indian Tribe, City of Yuma Fire Department and Allied Waste.

Here are just a few of the items collected throughout the day:

- Over **22 tons of trash** and debris collected, filling **FIVE** 40-yard containers
- 6 car bodies** removed,

producing 12 tons of metal to recycle

-**2 40-yard containers** full of metal (in addition to the cars), producing 4.5 tons for recycling

-**242 tires** filling one 40-yard container, all to be recycled

*One of six car frames removed from the lower Colorado River during 2006 River Sweep.*



## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### N.P. Moss Middle School Beautifies Campus, Honors Local Soldiers

On April 27, 2006, N.P. Moss Middle School, a Take Pride School, conducted their first Take Pride in America event. More than thirty students and faculty members participated.

Students picked up trash, and pruned oak trees that line the boulevard in front of the school, as well as prepared flower beds in front of the

school for other students to plant flowers.

Also, the student volunteers planted four Bradford Pear trees in memory of service members from their town of Lafayette, Louisiana that died in the Iraq war. Ryan Martin, the project coordinator, is already planning their next school project before the end of the school year.



*Students honor local members of the armed services by planting trees.*

# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHTS

## Girl Scouts Participate in Leave No Trace Event

Sixty Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts and adults attended the Juliette Low 'Leave No Trace Challenge Event' May 6-7, 2006, at the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area on the Santa Ana River in Riverside, California. Through situational tasks, the girls demonstrated their understanding of Leave No Trace outdoor skills, including map and compass, knots and lashing, first aid and trail signs.

The event was a joint effort of Leave No Trace Master Educators throughout the region who facilitated the event stations and discussed careers in natural resources with the girls. Marge Valdez, a naturalist from the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, led the girls and leaders on a night hike to the Santa Ana River where they discovered animal tracks, saw nocturnal animals and heard hawks, owls, tree frogs, and deep-throated bullfrogs.

The girls learned about public land conservation and earned their First-Aid, Outdoor Fun, Know Your Way, and Leave No Trace (LNT) badges. The troops adopted the Hidden Valley's Native Plant Garden for the volunteer conservation project as part of their Leave No Trace badge requirement.



*Troop 348 chooses what ten essential items to take on a day hike, part of their effort to complete the Leave No Trace Challenge.*



## America the Beautiful Fund Donates 'Seeds That Grow Hope' to Gulf Coast Region

America the Beautiful Fund is providing 10,000 pounds of vegetable seeds, 100,000 flower seed packets and 10,000 spring bulbs to grow food and replant the flooded areas of the Gulf Coast as part of the Take Pride in America Gardens project.

The seeds were donated through America the Beautiful Fund's Operation Green Plant program, which provides grants of seeds nationally to citizen efforts that feed the hungry, promote environmental stewardship and beautify America.

"This 10,000 pounds of corn, tomato, bean, melon, squash, onion and other vegetable seed can grow

\$6,000,000 worth of fresh nutritious vegetables, while flower seed and bulbs bloom to bring beauty and hope to hundreds of devastated neighborhoods," said Nanine Bilski, president of America the Beautiful Fund.

America the Beautiful Fund is a national non-profit organization started in 1965 to encourage volunteer citizen efforts to protect the natural and historic beauty of America. ABF is a Charter Partner of the Take Pride in America program and is supported by private donations and grants. The seeds for this project were generously donated by Harris Seed, Page Seed, Sakata Seed, Agrisales/Seedway, Johnny's Select Seed, Crossman Seed Corporation, and Thompson & Morgan And Hart Seed.

## Welcome New Supporter! Hands on the Land

Hands on the Land (HOL) provides a national network of field classrooms to enhance kindergarten through high school student learning. HOL is sponsored by Partners in Resource Education, a collaboration of five Federal agencies, a non-profit foundation, schools, and other private sector partners.

Visit [www.handsontheland.org](http://www.handsontheland.org) for more information.



## Special Thanks . . .

Doug Blankinship has returned to his duty station at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) after serving a long-term detail to the Office of the Secretary since December 2001, working on volunteer efforts. He worked as the manager of volunteer.gov/gov, the volunteer recruitment portal that enables the functionality and connectivity of the Take Pride website to the public. His 35 years of government service include working with the 1980s Take Pride in America Team, as well. Take Pride appreciates Doug's commitment to volunteerism and wishes him the best of luck in his future endeavors at the BLM.



*Always willing to lend a hand, Doug holds a banner for the certificate presentation at the 2006 DOI employee volunteer day for the Capital River Relief project.*

## Good Sam Club Kicks Off Nationwide Clean Up

The Good Sam Club's annual Cleanup Day took place across the nation during the weekend of May 21-22, 2006. To show their pride in their local public lands and to help kick off the event, employees of Affinity Group Inc. cleaned up San Buena Ventura State Beach on Wednesday, May 17. AGI's clean up efforts were aimed at making the beach enjoyable for all who visit, especially in anticipation of a busy Memorial Day weekend. As a result of their efforts this year, 40 Good Sam trash bags were filled with items from shoes and bottles to a large range of personal items.



## New Take Pride Schools!

Hampstead Elementary School in Hampstead, MD  
Principal Theresa L. Ball

Beatrice High School in Beatrice, NE  
Principal Jason Sutter

Pinehurst Elementary School in Pinehurst, NC  
Principal Herb Cameron

## New Take Pride Cities!

Clifton, New Jersey  
Mayor James Anzaldi

Yoncalla, Oregon  
Mayor Estella Myers

## For Your Information

If you would like our Take Pride Volunteer Guides, brochures or plastic banners for your next event, simply email us the quantity and we will send them to you. Additionally, we have other items that can be sent to help you reward your volunteers for their service. Please call us to discuss your needs.

To view a copy of the Volunteer Guide online, visit [http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi\\_volguide.pdf](http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi_volguide.pdf)

Please continue to look for the Take Pride public service announcements in print and broadcast on television. Let us know if you see one of our ads featuring the Take Pride message and Clint Eastwood.

Email [takepride@ios.doi.gov](mailto:takepride@ios.doi.gov) if you have information for our newsletter, or if you have questions.

## Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at [TakePride@ios.doi.gov](mailto:TakePride@ios.doi.gov) for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.